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# U.S. Still Seeks to Bar Arms To Iran, Shultz Tells Arabs

## *Delegates Urge End to Persian Gulf War*

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Secretary of State George P. Shultz assured a high-ranking Arab League delegation yesterday that the United States will continue efforts to deny arms to Iran, and the State Department said later that the United States might back "appropriate enforcement measures" if Tehran rebuffs U.N. efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war.

Shultz spoke before meeting with the delegation headed by North Yemen Foreign Minister Abd Karim Iryani. The group is consulting members of the U.N. Security Council in an effort to halt the 6½-year Persian Gulf war and force Iran, a Moslem but non-Arab state,

to negotiate with Iraq, an Arab League member.

The meeting, in the opening week of the joint House and Senate select committee hearings on the Iran-contra affair, also gave Shultz a new chance to assuage lingering Arab anger at the covert sale of U.S. arms to Iran.

He assured the delegation that the Reagan administration is vigorously pursuing Operation Staunch, the U.S. policy of trying to block arms shipments to Iran. That policy was secretly violated when the United States sold weapons to Tehran as a ransom for Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

After the meeting, State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman charged that Iran continues to

be the recalcitrant party in the face of efforts to halt gulf fighting.

He added that "the United States is ready in principle to support the application of appropriate enforcement measures against either party which refuses to cooperate with formal Security Council efforts to end the war."

However, Redman, saying he does not want to prejudice possible Security Council action, refused to say whether "appropriate enforcement measures" might involve U.S. participation in military action or economic sanctions against Iran.

The United States is nearing agreement with Kuwait on U.S. naval protection for Kuwaiti oil tankers in the gulf.

Intelligence sources said Wednesday that Iran has cleared land along the Straits of Hormuz and speculated that the Iranians might be preparing launch sites for Silk-worm missiles acquired from China. The Silkworm is an antiship missile with a range of about 50 miles.

"It's the presence of those missiles that are the cause for our concern," Redman said.